

Vereschagin Farms Inc.
3548 County Road P
Orland, CA 95963

August 13, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a farmer of 1,700 acres of orchards in Glenn County I have grave concerns with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR document.

I respectfully request that you give the public more time to review the document and allow us to comment on the document. Because of the complexity of the large document I ask that you hold public hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Throughout the entire Cal-Fed process I am extremely troubled that new water storage has been a very low priority for increasing the states water supply. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to demand more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

The Cal-Fed plan to remove approximately 250,000 acres of farm land from production is unacceptable. Cal-Fed has not adequately addressed the environmental, economic, social and third party impacts that would result from this land conversion.

Again I request that you allow additional time for public comments and hold public hearings throughout the state before implementing the plan.

Sincerely,



Mike Vereschagin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
State Senator Maurice Johannessen